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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9893
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 8771
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 6148
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0111
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 7332
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 4377
RUEHGE/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN 0934
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 4712
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 4352
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 6114
RUEHPO/AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO 0584
RUEHQH/AMEMBASSY QUITO 6996
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 1760
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UNCLAS LA PAZ 000163

SIPDIS

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TAGS: PGOV PREL BL
SUBJECT: MORALES: "DEA PLANNED MY ASSASSINATION"

REF: A. LA PAZ 155
 1B. LA PAZ 93

¶1. Summary: President Evo Morales and his ministers are calling for improved bilateral relations even as he continues to state publicly that the USG has tried, is trying, and will try to kill him. In the World Social Forum in Belem, Brazil, Morales called for a "world revolution to end the north-American interventionism" while also attacking the Catholic church as "one of the new enemies." End summary.

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FM Choquehuanca Hopes for Improved Relations
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¶2. On January 27, Foreign Minister David Choquehuanca sent the Secretary a congratulatory note on her appointment. The letter included Choquehuanca's hope for "improved and extended relations...based on mutual respect" (ref A).

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Morales To International Press: "DEA Planned Assassination"
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¶3. On January 28, President Morales renewed his claims that the USG is trying to kill him (ref B), telling a group of international reporters that "the DEA planned my assassination" without providing evidence but adding that when the time was right, all would be known. Although Morales' presentation to the international press was disjointed and without details, he stated that the DEA planned to kill him in "2000, 2002, in 97, 98, 96. I didn't have much information, but I felt that they were following me." Moving to the present, Morales added that, "I had information about the past week that including a nationalized Bolivian-American, they have brought an expert sharp-shooter and under the control of the intelligence, although they are such specialists, they're experts. They disappear, appear, this travel is impressive. Of some of them, I don't know if they are criminals, murderers, expert sharpshooters."

¶4. After outlining a supposed plot in 2005 in which "there

were instructions from the U.S. Embassy to militarily surround La Paz, no matter who died," Morales then implied that there are ongoing plots against his life: "How could there not be? Imagine now, after expelling the U.S. Ambassador, after breaking diplomatic relations with Israel. It's easy for me to discover it. But I also know and am convinced that this will be seen and I don't have any fear. When one is committed, one is committed. And when I am committed, I am fully committed." Morales added "the uniformed, armed DEA was dangerous, very dangerous; I accepted the direction of the unions" (it is not clear if Morales meant that the unions told him to expel DEA) "I knew that there was a risk. And it's not because I wanted it. Because my ancestors' fight, that of my grandfathers, a permanent fight against distinct empires, Roman empire, Spanish empire, English empire. Now it is our turn to fight against the north-American empire. It has consequences, obviously. I am convinced of that. But the most important, my experience...Evo Morales serves the people, the people defend Evo Morales. My people must know that there will be no betrayals."

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At World Social Forum, Morales Repeats Himself
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15. According to international press reports, at the "World Social Forum" in Brazil, Morales called for "a world revolution to put an end to north-American interventionism" while repeating his catch phrase that "before the peoples took arms against the empire, but now the empire takes arms against the peoples." Morales asserted that "We ourselves were victims--the same as our armed forces--of the military enclave of Washington in (the coca-growing region of) Chapare." Bolivian state news service ABI said that Morales considered it essential that the Forum take "concrete actions" to eliminate "U.S. military interventionism."

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USG Not Alone in Crosshairs
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16. At the Forum, Morales also attacked the Catholic church as one of the "new enemies", declaring that "another faith, another religion, another church is possible." Morales proposed a number of campaigns at the Forum, including campaigns for peace and justice, a new international economic order, the salvation of planet Earth, dignity, identity, and cultural diversity. On the topic of cultural diversity, Morales proposed that the symbol of the campaign be the coca leaf, "because never has a symbol of a people been so insulted and persecuted."

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